Amendments to the Specification: Please amend the specification as follows:

Page 4, last paragraph, lines (22-27), continuing on page 5 (lines 1-2)

Fig. 9 shows the arrangement of a distributed scheduler using RRGS and framed RRGS. Fig. 9 shows an arrangement with port count N = 4 as an example. Referring to Fig. 9, the scheduler is comprised of IMs (Input Modules) 10-1 to [[0-4]] 10-4. Each module 10-i (i = 1 to 4) receives a frame pulse (FP) 21 indicating the head of a frame. Each module 10-i operates in synchronism with the frame pulse 21.

Page 7, second full paragraph, lines (13-17)

Fig. 11 shows scheduling based on RRGS disclosed in the above reference in a case where an even umber number of ports are used. Fig. 11 shows a case where port count N = 4, and a reservation sequence from time slot (TS) 6.

Page 10, first full paragraph, lines (7-14)

When output port reservation information is to be transferred in parallel, the information expansion time (T1 to T2) and format conversion time (T3 to T4) can be omitted. In this case, however, the number of signal lines required for transfer between the IMs increases. When, therefore, IMs are to be implemented by an LSI a Large Scale Integration (LSI), the number of terminals of the LSI becomes too large to integrate the IMs into one LSI.